

Monthly Report for March 2018

Submitted April 6, 2018

Meetings and Conference

Research and Policy Advisory Board Meeting

The Research and Policy Advisory Board met in March. RPB discussed how to support state and federal reporting requirements for data sharing partners as well as best practices for including contextual data in research.

DLLR Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL)

Ann Kellogg attended the Maryland Workforce System's Data and Dashboard Committee meeting. The committee is comprised of members from the four partner organizations identified in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The committee is seeking to develop a set of dashboards related to workforce data. MLDS Center was asked to participate in the committee meeting to share our experiences with developing dashboards. The committee will meet monthly and MLDS Center will participate on an as-needed basis offering guidance and lessons learned.

Baltimore City Chief Data Officer

Ross Goldstein and Tejal Cherry met with Tracey McKee, Chief Data Officer for the Baltimore Mayor's Office of Information Technology. Ms. McKee, who is new to the position, wanted to meet with Center staff to learn about the MLDS, its development and the technology and processes that support the system. Baltimore City is in the process of developing an integrated data system and is interested in lessons learned from similar systems.

Center Output

Dashboards and Other Output

The Center's first *Information Briefs* were finalized and posted. New webpages were built to launch the new output. MLDS staff continued work on developing the first *Research Spotlight* and expanding the *Pathways and Pipelines*.

Data Requests

The Center provided a set of data tables for MHEC's *Student Outcome and Achievement Report* (SOAR). SOAR provides stakeholders in high school and postsecondary education with information on the academic performance of recent high school graduation during their first year in college. The data tables are currently under review by MHEC. MLDS anticipates additional requests for data tables for SOAR over the next two months as MHEC completes its report.

The Center received five data requests in March. Three data requests were from MHEC and two from MSDE. The three requests from MHEC were for data to assist MHEC in making strategic program

decisions for offering academic programs as well as the administration of grant programs. The MSDE requests support activities for the [Maryland High School Graduation Task Force](#).

Research Branch

Research Reports

Preliminary analyses examining the link between individual level poverty and school concentrated poverty and college enrollment have been run. A first draft of the research report examining the long term college and career outcomes of dual enrollment has been circulated. The research team is currently working on re-running the models on the differential effects of dual enrollment by gender, race, ethnicity, FARMS, and academic achievement. The team is also creating graphical displays of the effects for easy interpretation.

Additional Research

Members of the research branch met with Dara Shaw, MSDE Director of the Office of Research and Strategic Data Use, to discuss a request for an analysis of the outcomes of students who complete a Maryland high school education via the bridge program. Dr. Lincove has begun to examine descriptive statistics to determine the best causal approach to examine the postsecondary and workforce outcomes of students who participated in the bridge program. Additionally, the research team completed a bibliographic review of economic and policy literature related to the economic returns to high school education. This review was done for MSDE in response to the high school graduation taskforce diploma committee. The review focused on studies that used advanced statistical methods to examine the causal effects of receiving a high school diploma or another credential (e.g., a GED) on long-term outcomes.

Conferences and Presentations

Heath Witzen, doctoral research fellow with the Center, presented his research using Center data at the Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon. The presentation was on, "The Effect of High School Career and Technical Education on Postsecondary Enrollment and Early Career Earnings: Evidence From Maryland," which analyzed the long-term effects of CTE education in Maryland high schools. This work was presented on the "High School Choice" panel chaired by Dan Goldhaber, Director of the Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research (CALDER) at the American Institutes for Research, where Heath received helpful feedback from panelists and audience members. He also attended interesting sessions, such as "Using State Data to Answer Policy Questions about CTE Participation", "College in High School", "The Design of Financial Aid Programs", and "College Costs, Repayment, and Information." The topics of the session related to his ongoing work with the Center focused on CTE, dual enrollment, and financial aid.

Dr. Henneberger was invited to present at the Morgan State Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Dr. Henneberger gave a talk entitled, "Using Propensity Score Methods with Administrative Data: An Example from the Maryland Longitudinal Data System." The presentation focused on the strengths and limitations of using propensity score matching. The talk was attended by faculty in the psychology department, the Center for Predictive Analytics, and Morgan State Institutional Research.

Personnel

Dr. Angela Henneberger will take over the role of Principal Investigator (PI) of the MLDSC research branch. Dr. Terry Shaw, who had been serving in that capacity, will continue with the research team as an Associate Director of Research.

Synthetic Data Project (SDP)

The SDP research team started drafting their first manuscript that will be submitted to a peer reviewed journal on what they have been learning in terms of synthesizing a large longitudinal state data set. The team has continued working on the gold standard data sets (GSDS): including determining which variables will be included from the ODS, how those variables will be coded, and how to develop a simpler table structure for those variables. The following three GSDS will be created and synthesized: (a) High school to workforce; (b) High school to postsecondary; and (c) Postsecondary to workforce.

Finally, the SDP team has started planning the work (and budget) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year which will start July 1 and will be the last year of the project. The central tasks for year three will be the generation of the synthetic data sets, which builds on all the work done over the past two years, then testing those synthetic data sets in terms of their research utility and validity relative to the real ODS data, and testing the safety--disclosure risk--of the synthetic data in terms of maintaining the confidentiality of the data.

System Management

Tasks

1. Center staff created a set of processes and a technical checklist to follow when a staff member leaves the agency.
2. Along with MSDE and DoIT, Center staff is continuing to evaluate different options for continuing the Center's Oracle licensing and use at the state enterprise data center.
3. Center staff held its monthly meeting to review system security procedures and develop steps to continually improve the system's security profile.
4. Center staff increased the use of Govdelivery for general agency announcements and meeting reminders.
5. Center staff is expanding the use of JIRA (a team management software tool). JIRA is being used to manage and track all data requests and other agency projects. One byproduct of using JIRA is that it creates various reports that are useful in tracking various metrics, such as project time to completion.

Data Loads

1. Completed loading summer 2017 and fall 2018 enrollment information data received from MHEC.
2. Completed loading summer 2011 K12 attendance records.
3. Completed loading 2017 end of year attendance file from MSDE.
4. Completed creating 24,369 new identities for students in K12 attendance collections who did not previously exist in MLDS.
5. Beginning the data loading process for MHEC External Credit System data, DLLR 2017 Quarter 3 data and K12 Assessments.
6. Performed identity resolution for individuals who have multiple system ID's for the same identifier (SSN).